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## FEBRUARY 13, 1912

The meeting of February 13, 1912, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. Twenty-three persons were present.

The announced scientific programme consisted of a lecture on "Some Botanical Features of a Desert Mountain Range," by Dr. Forrest Shreve. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*

## NEWS ITEMS

We learn from *Science* that a comprehensive project for research on the Cactaceae has been organized by the department of botanical research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. J. N. Rose, of the U. S. National Museum, has been appointed research associate. He has been granted a furlough from the museum, which also furnishes working quarters and facilities for handling the living collections. Dr. N. L. Britton, who has made extensive studies of the group, has also been appointed research associate, without salary. The New York Botanical Garden also contributes its extensive collections, and some of its explorational effort to the project. Dr. D. S. Johnson, of Johns Hopkins University, and Professor J. G. Brown, of the University of Arizona, will continue their studies on the Cactaceae. Other contributions will be made by the members of the staff and co-operators of the Desert Laboratory.

At the one hundredth anniversary of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia held March 18-21, Dr. C. Stuart Gager represented the Torrey Botanical Club and also the University of Missouri.

From the *Sun* we learn that Michael H. Lawlor, an expert in the propagation and care of trees of foreign growth and known to horticulturists in all parts of the United States, has died, aged 63 years. He was born in Ireland and came to this country

when a young man. He went to work for the Parsons nurseries in Flushing and assisted Robert S. Parsons in importing many varieties from Europe, Asia and Africa. The task of acclimating and caring for these trees was entrusted to Lawlor, who became an expert in that particular branch. At the death of Mr. Parsons Lawlor went into the nursery business on his own account. He retired about ten years ago. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.

Dr. George T. Moore, professor of plant physiology at the Shaw School of Botany, and until recently plant physiologist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been appointed director of the Garden to succeed Dr. William Trelease, who has lately resigned.

Dr. Marshall A. Howe represented the New York Botanical Garden at the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. He read a paper on "Reef-building and land-forming seaweeds."

Mr. Robert Cushman Murphy, curator of the division of mammals and birds at The Brooklyn Institute Museum, will sail early in May for the southern Atlantic. South Georgia, an island about one thousand miles east of Cape Horn, will be the objective point. Mr. Murphy will also be equipped for collecting marine and land plants. It is hoped that his collection will supplement those of the few collectors who have ever visited this botanically little-known region.

On Monday, April 8, excavation began for the first section of the laboratory building and plant houses of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The building, when completed, will be one story high, of brick faced with concrete, 240 feet long and 50 feet wide, with a maximum elevation of about 60 feet. The plans provide for four large laboratories for class use, three class rooms, a herbarium room, three library rooms, physiological and photographic dark rooms, a photographic operating room, a constant temperature room, an auditorium, thirteen private research rooms, and service rooms in the basement. Only about one fifth of the building will be constructed this year, and it is expected that this will be ready for occupancy before January 1, 1913.

The plant houses consist of a central palm house  $104 \times 45$  feet, and 36 feet maximum height, with two north and two south wings, each  $100 \times 22.5$  feet. Only the northeast wing will be built this year.

On April 10 work began on the construction of an artificial brook to extend for 1,500 feet through the central portion of the Garden. The April number of the *Garden Record* contains the first annual report.